Expenditure on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†3601. SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pace of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is very slow;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to expedite this mission;

(e) whether Government has fixed any target for it during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (f) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education (UEE) in a time bound manner, in mission mode. Consequently, the number of Out of School Children (OoSC), which was 320 lakh in 2001-02, has come down to 75.97 lakh in 2007-08, as per State reports.

Expenditure of the Government of India for the last three years was Rs. 29820.88 crore and financial target for year 2008-09 is Rs. 13100 crore, under SSA.

Independent regulatory authority for higher education

3602.SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted a proposal to set up an independent regulatory authority for higher education, with an appellate body for redressal of academic grievances;

(b) whether the present higher education system in the country regulated by thirteen different councils resulting in over-regulation and under-governance; and

(c) if so, Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In its Report to the Nation(2006). The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education and re-defining the role of regulatory bodies such as UniversityGrant Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE),Medical Council of India (MCI) and Bar Council of India (BCI). According to available information, there are 14 professional councils apart from the State Councils for Higher Education.

(c) There is no consensus on the recommendations of NKC. However, a Review Committee has been constituted by Government to review the functions of the UGC and AICTE.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.